Ministry of Education and Science Republic of Latvia

National Centre for Education (VISC)

April, 2010
What is VISC?

- an institution of public administration subordinated to the Ministry of Education and Science.

When was VISC established?

- July 1st, 2009

VISC = Centre for Curriculum Development and Examinations + National Youth Initiative Centre + National Centre for Special Education + Vocational Education Administration
Values of VISC

Knowledge, quality, accuracy, high sense of responsibility.

And VISC:
- highly appreciates cooperation;
- likes to work in a united, professional team;
- is interested in the experience of others, and want to share its own experience.
VISC activities affect:

- 830 general education institutions;
- 216 0307 students in general education;
- 23108 teachers in general education;
- 83 vocational education institutions;
- 35 767 students in vocational education;
- 4250 teachers in professional education;
- 57 higher education institutions.

(2010/2011 school year; data source: Ministry of Education and Science)
VISC functions

- Curriculum development (general and vocational education);
- Coordination of support system for children with special education needs;
- Coordination of teacher CPD;
- Implementation of EU structural fund projects and EU Lifelong Learning program projects;
- Development and implementation of national examinations;
- State language proficiency testing;
- Coordination of hobby and values education system;
- Coordination subject Olympiads for general education students;
- Coordination of professional skills competitions for vocational education students;
- Coordination of students’ scientific research work;
- Organization of Latvian School Youth Song and Dance Festivals
Curriculum development

- Curriculum development for basic education and general secondary education;
- Vocational education (basic and secondary) curriculum development;
- Coordination of development of textbooks in general and vocational education in compliance with national standards;
- Coordination of support system for students with special needs.
Vocational education

- Develops vocational education curriculum in compliance with the national standards;
- Develops syllabus for examinations;
- Coordinates the organisation of the national qualification examinations;
- Provides consultations for educational institutions;
- Develops profession standards;
- Enhance the role of social dialogue in vocational education curriculum development;
- Coordinates development of sample programs for vocational education;
- Evaluates vocational education programs in compliance with national secondary vocational education standards and profession standards;
- Coordinates development of textbooks for vocational education;
- Organizes development of teaching and support materials for vocational education.
Assessment and Examinations

At the end of grade 3:
- combined test (native language + mathematics);
- Latvian Language test for minority education programs.

At the end of grade 6:
- test in Native Language;
- test in Mathematics;
- Latvian Language test for minority education programs;
- Test in General Science.
At the end of basic education (grade 9):
- Examination in a Foreign Language;
- Examination in History;
- Examination in Mathematics;
- Centralized Latvian Language examination for minority education programs;
- Latvian as the native language examination;
- Examination in Minority Language for minority education programs.
Examinations at the End of Secondary Education

Centrally marked examinations:
- in a Foreign Language;
- in Latvian Language and Literature;
- in Mathematics;

One examination according to a student’s choice.
State Language Proficiency Testing

- For people who need Certificate of State Language Knowledge to perform certain job;
- For people who want to apply for permanent residence in Latvia
Teacher Continuous Professional Development

Coordinates Teacher Continuous Professional Development System:

- provides guidance and support for teacher CPD program implementers;
- Evaluates and approves teacher CPD programs;
- Maintains CPD program catalogue register.
Hobby and Values Education

- Coordinates hobby education system and implements varied activities to promote development of students’ personality and talents;
- Every five years organizes Latvian School Youth Song and Dance Festival.
VISC

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